

Subpart D—Inspection by Independent Consultant

§ 12.30 Applicability.

This subpart applies to any licensed project development that has a dam:

(a) That is more than 32.8 feet (10 meters) in height above streambed, as defined in § 12.31(c);

(b) That impounds an impoundment with a gross storage capacity of more than 2,000 acre-feet (2.5 million cubic meters); or

(c) That has a high hazard potential and is determined by the Regional Engineer or other authorized Commission representative to require inspection by an independent consultant under this subpart.

§ 12.31 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart:

(a) *Independent consultant* means any person who:

(1) Is a licensed professional engineer;

(2) Has at least 10 years experience and expertise in dam design and construction and in the investigation of the safety of existing dams; and

(3) Is not, and has not been within two years before being retained to perform an inspection under this subpart, an employee of the licensee or its affiliates or an agent acting on behalf of the licensee or its affiliates.

(b) *Dam that has a high hazard potential* means any dam whose failure, in the judgment of the Commission or its authorized representative, might endanger human life or cause significant property damage, or which meets the criteria for high hazard potential as defined by the Corps of Engineers in 33 CFR part 222.

(c) *Height above streambed* means:

(1) For a dam with a spillway, the vertical distance from the lowest elevation of the natural streambed at the downstream toe of the dam to the maximum water storage elevation possible without any discharge from the spillway. The maximum water storage elevation is:

(i) For gated spillways, the elevation of the tops of the gates;

(ii) For ungated spillways, the elevation of the spillway crest or the top of any flashboards, whichever is higher;

(2) For a dam without a spillway, the vertical distance from the lowest elevation of the natural streambed at the downstream toe of the dam to the lowest point on the crest of the dam.

(d) *Gross storage capacity* means the maximum possible volume of water impounded by a dam with zero spill, that is, without the discharge of water over the dam or a spillway.

(e) The Director of the Office of Energy Projects Licensing may, for good cause shown, grant a waiver of the 10 year requirement in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. Any petition for waiver under this paragraph must be filed in accordance with § 1.7(b) of this chapter.

[Order 122, 46 FR 9036, Jan. 28, 1981, as amended at 49 FR 29370, July 20, 1984]

§ 12.32 General inspection requirement.

In accordance with the procedures in § 12.35, the project works of each development to which this subpart applies, excluding transmission and transformation facilities and generating equipment, must be periodically inspected and evaluated by or under the responsibility and direction of at least one independent consultant, who may be a member of a consulting firm, to identify any actual or potential deficiencies, whether in the condition of those project works or in the quality or adequacy of project maintenance, surveillance, or methods of operation, that might endanger public safety.

§ 12.33 Exemption.

(a) Upon written request from the licensee, the Director of the Office of Energy Projects Licensing may grant an exemption from the requirements of this subpart in extraordinary circumstances that clearly establish good cause for exemption.

(b) Good cause for exemption may include the finding that the development in question has no dam except dams that meet the criteria for low hazard potential as defined by the Corps of Engineers in 33 CFR part 222.

[Order 122, 46 FR 9036, Jan. 28, 1981, as amended at 49 FR 29370, July 20, 1984]